

VOTING DEVICE WITH IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK

Abstract of the Disclosure

All data registering devices, including voting machines, are subject to error, either from human lapses or mechanical malfunction. The object of the present invention is to disclose a device that incorporates features that immediately alert the user to the fact that an error has occurred, before it is too late or too inconvenient for the user to correct it. In voting devices that produce a machine-processable record card, such as the Votomatic and the Poll Star, votes are counted photo-electrically by shining a light through holes punched in the ballot card. According to the present invention, the greatest certainty regarding what punch-outs represent a valid vote can be obtained only if the same principle is employed to inform the voter as to whether his punch-out is or is not in the intended position and is a complete punch-out. To provide the voter with this verification, backlighting is introduced that directs a beam of light upward through each punch-out toward the voter's eye. To achieve the optimum results, which demand that the frequency of faulty ballots be less than about one percent, the special backlighting features employed are combined with mechanical improvements that minimize defective punch-outs.